



RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
RAJYA SABHA

August 21, 2020

*Dear Kiren*

Subject: Nomination of Shri Boniface Prabhu for Arjuna Award 2020 (Para-Athlete Wheelchair Tennis Category)

Padma Shri Boniface Prabhu, Para-athlete and Quadriplegic International Wheelchair Tennis player represented India at international events in six disciplines in sports over 81 times and still counting. He is the first Indian Para-athlete to achieve 2 Gold and 1 Silver medals at the world wheelchair games in United Kingdom and credited with the rank of first Indian in the history of athletics to have achieved a Bronze medal at the world championship.

Mr. Prabhu ranked Asia No. 1 and scaled world number 17 (highest ever ranked by any Indian) in wheelchair tennis with the honour of playing all 4 grand slams across the world in both doubles and singles championships. Also won over 18 titles in addition to being finalist 13 times and semi-finalist on 17 occasions. This includes Australian Open (Grand slam) finalist in 1999, winning title in US Open doubles in 2004, First Asian to win back to back title in Sydney International Super series in 2006-2007 and been the finalist in Poland Open doubles in 2017.

Mr. Prabhu pioneered introducing wheelchair tennis in India since 1995 and founder of "Wheelchair Tennis Academy" to encourage, train and nurtured wheelchair tennis talent in India. He is the founder member of "Sports Beyond Boundaries", non-profit organisation for encouraging wheel-chair tennis and other sports for people with disabilities and under-privileged in India to support our honourable Prime Minister's "Khelo India" initiative.

I hope you consider him as a worthy candidate for the Arjuna Award 2020.

Yours sincerely,

*Rajeev Chandrasekhar*

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

**Shri. Kiren Rijju**

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